

Working Group Conversations

During your year of service with the City of St. Paul VISTA Program, we want you to network closely with VISTA members doing work similar to your own. The general purpose of working groups is for you to get to know other VISTA sites, understand the work that is being carried out at those sites and by your fellow VISTA members, and to meet throughout the year to collaborate as a supportive network.

Working groups will be given time to check in and have discussions aimed at collaboration across sites at our monthly meetings. We hope that your discussions will continue organically outside of our meetings, but VISTA program staff will convene your small groups 1 to 2 times outside of our monthly meetings.

Small Groups:

- Define your purpose.
 - The “theme” that you have gathered under is a guiding statement.
 - Why are you all in the same group? Take time to establish a defined purpose for your group within the “theme” that you have gathered in. What attracted you to the “theme”? What about the “theme” would you like to talk about for the year in relation to the work your organization and your position does?
 - Each group member should share, in detail, the work they are doing at their site. What is the scope of your project for the year? How does this relate to the “theme” that brought you all together?
 - After everyone has presented, discuss in depth how you and your organization can collaborate with others in the group.
- Define your group goals.
 - Discuss how your small group can be supportive of its members outside of the room today.
 - Examples include:
 - “Our group will meet once a month.”
 - “Our group will visit each member’s site at least once during the service year.”
- Identify a “presenter” who can report back to the large group on your purpose and goals, and how you will work within your “theme”.

Large Group:

Each group will have time to present on its purpose and goals for the year.